

Serial No.: 10/751,009
Docket No. SHE0074.00

REMARKS

I. Amendment to the Specification

The paragraph on page 85, beginning at line 24, has been corrected to delete an extraneous word inadvertently appearing in the paragraph. No new matter has been added to the specification by way of this change.

II. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-34, 54-169, 183, 185 and 186 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 35, 39, 53, 171-182 and 184 have been amended, and claims 187 and 188 have been added. Upon entry of the preliminary amendment, claims 35-53, 170-182, 184, 187 and 188 will be pending. These claims will encompass, among other things, a polymeric reagent, a method for preparing polymer-active agent conjugates, conjugates, and pharmaceutical preparations.

Support for the changes to the claims is identified below. Additional support other than that identified below may exist in the specification and/or experimental for one or more new claims.

The article "a" has been amended to claim 35 in order to provide proper syntax.

The dependencies of claims 39 and 171-184 have been corrected and/or changed in view of other changes to the claims.

References to certain variables have been deleted from claim 53 inasmuch as these variables are not required for the subject matter encompassed by the claim.

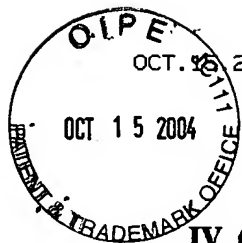
The subject matter of new claim 187 finds support in original claims 170 and 186.

The subject matter encompassed by new claim 188 is found on page 83, lines 11-12, of the specification.

As support for the claimed subject matter is found in the application as filed, no new matter is introduced by the entry of the above-identified changes to the claims.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

An information disclosure statement has been prepared and is being transmitted under separate cover.



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IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims satisfy the requirements of patentability and are therefore in condition for allowance. Consequently, a prompt mailing of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (650) 620-5506.

Respectfully submitted,
Nektar Therapeutics

Date: October 15, 2004

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